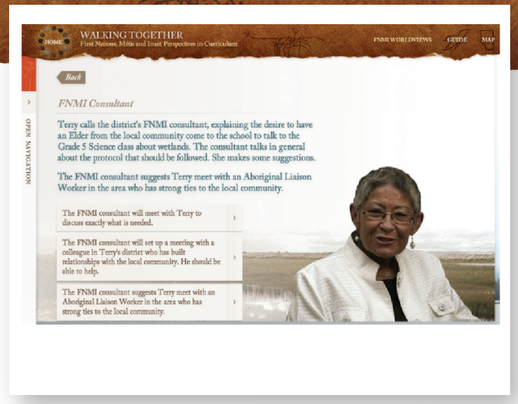
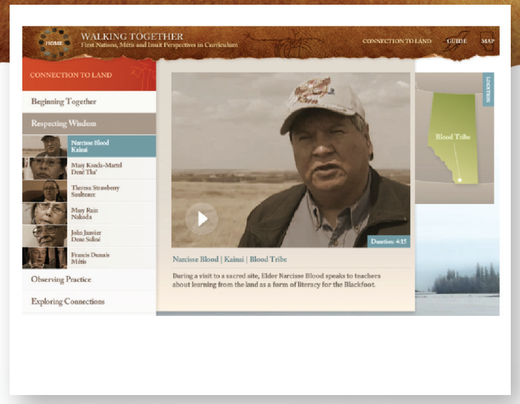


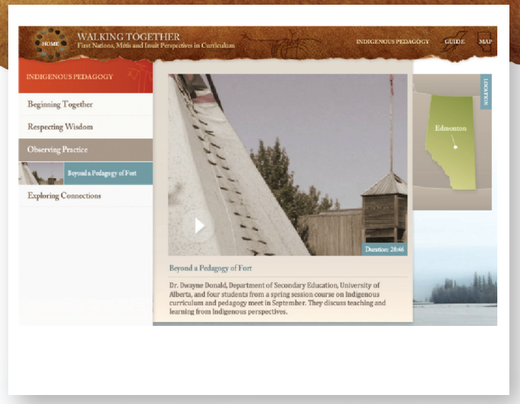
Beginning Together

Interactive screens introduce the 12 topic areas through classroom scenarios.



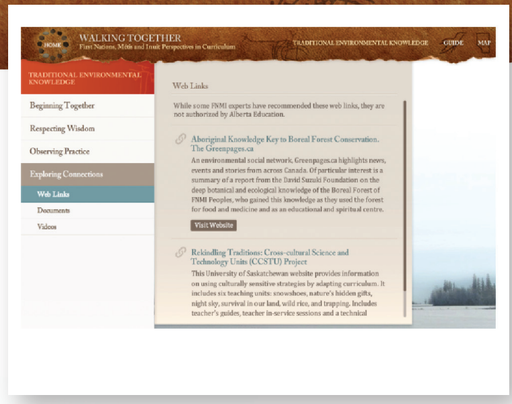
Respecting Wisdom

In short video clips Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Cultural Advisors and Community Members share their perspectives.



Observing Practice

Longer video presentations sectioned into chapters illustrate FNMI perspective in a variety of learning and teaching settings.



Exploring Connections

Web links, articles and videos provide additional information teachers can use to build on their understanding of FNMI perspectives and strengthen their teaching practice.

Design and Intent of the Resource

The Walking Together digital resource was designed to:

- show the holistic nature of First Nations, Métis and Inuit ways of knowing
- provide opportunity for FNMI Peoples to share their perspectives on topic areas that emerged from discussions with community members
- demonstrate FNMI perspectives in teaching and learning experiences.

The hope is this digital resource will:

- increase teachers' understanding of the expertise and knowledge within the rich and diverse FNMI cultures in Alberta
- strengthen teachers' confidence to include and infuse FNMI perspectives
- encourage teachers to explore presenting instruction from an indigenous perspective.

The Consultation Cycle

2006
Stage 1: Initiation
FNMI community representatives suggest the establishment of a culturally authentic and historically accurate resource to help educators understand FNMI perspectives.

2006–2007
Stage 2: Research
Consultation with FNMI community representatives across Alberta results in development of topic areas and gathering of resource content.

2009
Stage 3: Planning
A program plan is presented to the FNMI Advisory Committee for feedback and suggestions.

2009–2011
Stage 4: Development
Collaborative development of the resource proceeds with contributions from FNMI community members.

2011–2012
Stage 5: Verification
The draft resource is shared with FNMI community members and contributors for review of authenticity and accuracy.

2012
Stage 6: Maintenance
Consultation with FNMI community members continues in order to ensure that resource content is culturally authentic and historically accurate.

Review Criteria

This collaborative project has involved working closely with FNMI community members and educators who shared personal, culturally based understandings and knowledge of governance, traditions, place, pedagogy, history, treaty, rights, cultures and languages. In June 2011, community consultation participants provided responses to the following questions:

- Is this content culturally authentic?
- Is this content accurate and appropriate?
- Is this content presented in a culturally respectful manner?
- How will understanding the content be beneficial to teachers and learners?

Contributors

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Talking Together Discussion Guide

A discussion guide, Talking Together, is provided with the digital resource. This guide offers innovative and practical ideas for school leaders and teachers to explore the resource for professional learning, either individually or as a group. The guide offers ways to explore content through approaches including Appreciative Inquiry, The Art of Focused Conversation, Talking Circles, Journaling and World Café.

The guide also contains sample messages to encourage teacher exploration of content, short overviews for use in newsletters, reflection questions to stimulate discussion of video content, suggestions for use of interactive activities, and sample workshops.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to the many Elders, Cultural Advisors, community members and contributing writers whose perspectives helped guide and shape the development of this digital resource for teachers. The journey from the initial community meetings in 2006 with representatives from Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Tsuu T'ina, Nakoda/Stoney, Northwestern and Northeastern Dene Nations, Urban Edmonton, Urban Calgary, Treaty 6, the Métis Settlements General Council, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, to the June 2011 Community Consultation, is an example of walking together.

Amiskwaciy Academy; Bear Paw Media (NCSA); Blue Quills First Nation College; Caslan School; Connections for Learning (CFL) Parkland School Division; Digital Resource Advisory Group; Centennial Elementary School; East Prairie School; Edmonton Public School District; Edmonton Catholic School District; Education Program Standards and Assessment (EPSA) First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Advisory Committee; Knowing our Spirits Conference; Olds High School; Pigeon Lake Regional High School; Rainbow Spirit Dancers; Social Studies Institute 2007; Standoff Youth Conference; University of Alberta; University of Lethbridge; Wetaskiwin Regional Public School District.

WALKING TOGETHER

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Perspectives in Curriculum

A Resource for Teachers

Available on LearnAlberta.ca

Government of Alberta